



WFP East Africa Regional Refugee Update

November 2020

Regional Overview

Conflict and insecurity are the dominant drivers of crisis response in Eastern Africa, with conflict driven displacement driving up to 80% of WFP's resource needs of RBN. The other key drivers include economic crisis, natural disasters such as droughts and floods, as well as outbreaks of disease.

East Africa hosts one of the highest numbers of displaced populations in the world; with a total refugee population of around 3.3 million and 6.4 million Internally Displaced People (IDPs) as of 30 September 2020, originating mostly from four countries: South Sudan, Somalia, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Burundi. The Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) has been launched in Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda. While the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases amongst refugees in the region have been minimal so far. However, prevention and containment measures have inhibited the livelihoods and income generating opportunities of refugees.

This update presents an overview of WFP's refugee operations in Eastern Africa as COVID-19 continues to spread across the region. It highlights some of the innovative measures taken by WFP and partners to not only serve refugees better but also draw attention to critical funding shortfalls across WFP's refugee operations and reduced rations being provided to most refugees.

Funding Situation

Due to funding constraints, WFP has had to implement ration cuts for refugees in Uganda (30%), Kenya, (40%), South Sudan (30%), Ethiopia (16%), and Djibouti (23%). Ration cuts may need to happen in Rwanda as overall shortfalls for the next 6 months are at 61% of the requirements. Neither Somalia nor Burundi have ration cuts in place, but Burundi is missing super cereal. Refugees in camps are highly dependent on assistance and ration cuts invariably result in increased malnutrition, stunting in children and other vulnerable groups and adoption of negative coping strategies that have protection implications.

Overview of WFP Refugee Operational Needs per Country (December 2020 - May 2021)

Country Office	Total Requirements (US\$)	Net Funding Requirements (US\$)
Burundi	7M	3.3M
Djibouti	3M	0.2M
Ethiopia	83.1M	58M
Kenya	70.1M	48M
Rwanda	89M	11.9M
South Sudan	95.8M	59M
Uganda	116.1M	90M
Total	391.2M	216.3M

Country Updates

Burundi

As of July 2020, Burundi hosts a total of 78,699 refugees, 98% of whom are from DRC. Approximately 34,000 people reside in urban areas and the rest in five refugee camps. From November 2017 to September 2020, UNHCR and partners have assisted 99,403 people return voluntarily to Burundi. The majority of these returnees are from Tanzania (90,747). With a surge in numbers of returnees in the last few months after the elections, implementation of COVID-19 protocols has been hampered with only one processing centre functioning with a testing capacity for 400 people and 140 beds to accommodate suspected cases. Refugee influx into Burundi has however been halted due to the borders closure with DRC to prevent the propagation of COVID-19. Considering the threat posed by COVID-19, WFP is prioritizing assistance to approximately 50,000 Burundian refugees returning from neighbouring countries and 55,000 refugees in camps in 2020.

Djibouti

WFP assists 31,000 registered refugees and asylum seekers living in Ali Addeh, Holl Holl and Markazi settlements in Djibouti through life-saving food assistance, nutrition and self-reliance initiatives.

WFP continues to strengthen the capacities of retailers to respond to the increasing demand of food and to diversify their stocks, and extended the use of SCOPE to 1200 refugees residing in settlements in July 2020, providing flexibility in choice of food to cover their needs. WFP has been sensitizing refugees on COVID-19 prevention measures and in partnership with Union Nationale des Femmes Djiboutiennes (**UNFD**), has set up a Complaint Feedback Mechanism System (CFM) in refugee settlements.

The Government of Djibouti has enacted the National Refugee Law to ensure integration of refugees into national safety nets/social protection. With strict preventative measures in place, Djibouti reopened schools in September.

Ethiopia

Ethiopia currently hosts the second largest number of refugees in Africa with 792,030 registered refugees and asylum seekers, mainly from South Sudan, as at 30 September 2020. The country also hosts over 1.8 million IDPs as at July 2020. In 2020, WFP is assisting 706,000 refugees including

15,000 children (6-59 months) and 5,000 pregnant and lactating women under MAM treatment and another

101,000 children (6-59months) and 34,000 pregnant and lactating women under prevention of MAM (Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme).

Currently, all camp-based refugees are provided with 84 percent of the recommended minimum daily ration of 2,100 kilo calories. Livelihood initiatives are minimal in some camps and therefore all camp-based refugees are dependent on humanitarian assistance.

Fighting between the Ethiopian National Defence Forces and the Tigray People's Liberation front has displaced upwards of 100,000 civilians fleeing conflict both internally within Ethiopia and over the border into eastern Sudan since 04 November. The violence is uprooting civilians across Tigray – including more than 40,000 Ethiopians who have fled into eastern Sudan as refugees through the border village of Hamdayet in Kassala State, Lugdi in Gedaref State and further south at the Aderafi border

Tigray hosts a large refugee population. Just over 50,000 are living in four camps. WFP provides **food assistance to the camp-based refugees** in the form of general food distributions, school feeding and targeted supplementary feeding. WFP also provides **targeted supplementary feeding** to approx. 42,000 beneficiaries and is reaching approx. 210,000 with **insurance-based support** through the **R4 Rural Resilience Initiative**.

WFP is working with partners to mobilize and prepare to respond to a potential increase in the number of people in need. Our main aims are to minimize disruption to its existing operations in Tigray and ensure that it is ready to extend food assistance to new people in need and support the wider humanitarian response, as requested by the Federal Government.

WFP current funding needs (all activities in all regions of Ethiopia): **WFP Ethiopia urgently needs US\$ 209 million to assist 6.2 million beneficiaries from December 2020 to May 2021.**

Kenya

As of 30 September 2020, there are 496,803 registered refugees and asylum-seekers - 44% in Dadaab, 40% in Kakuma and 16% in urban areas (mainly Nairobi). In 2019, WFP supported 391,077 refugees in Dadaab and Kakuma camps and in Kalobeyei settlement with life-saving food assistance, coupled with nutrition support and self-reliance initiatives.

Refugees have been receiving reduced rations since September 2017 due to insufficient funding. In September 2019, WFP was forced to reduce rations even further 70 percent of the minimum recommended number of kilocalories. This is particularly challenging in

the context of the ongoing pandemic. Currently, Cash Based Transfers account for 20% of the overall assistance to refugees but WFP plans to increase these transfers to 50%.

Innovation has played a key role in adapting to the Covid-19 crisis in Kenya. WFP and Safaricom co-created M-Pesa lite, a stripped-down version of M-Pesa (a mobile money transfer platform) with limited functionalities to allow beneficiaries to access their entitlement of unrestricted cash in Kalobeyei settlement. This constituted the development of a wallet on the existing *bamba chakula* SIM card that allows beneficiaries to receive cash from WFP only and withdraw it from M-Pesa agents. This also safeguards against money laundering.

A hydroponics project initiated in Kakuma refugee camp, Kalobeyei settlement and Lodwar (Turkana County), tested the feasibility of sustaining production of crops and fodder using minimum water and land in arid conditions. Its success has enabled people living in these areas to continue accessing fresh produce despite the supply disruptions caused by COVID-19. A digital livelihoods project dubbed Tech 4 Livelihoods is training youths on digital skills and thus access to online jobs.

Rwanda

As of 30 September 2020, there were 147,889 refugees and asylum seekers in Rwanda, mainly from DRC and Burundi and 308 returnees have been received in 2020. Almost 92 percent of refugees in Rwanda are in camp based settings while urban refugees live in Kigali City and Huye District. WFP reached 137,552 camp-based refugees with food assistance in September 2020.

In July 2020, WFP received a request from UNHCR, on behalf of the Government, to provide food assistance for all quarantined refugees. WFP has allocated US\$685,000 to provide food to up to 2,500 quarantined refugees this year. Should the pandemic continue, an additional USD 1.42 million is budgeted to be able to continue providing support from January 2021 to July 2021 for 2,000 refugees in quarantine.

According to UNHCR's plan, 8,000 refugees are expected to be repatriated by the end of 2020 and 40,000 in 2021. WFP will maintain its operational planning figure for the time being and review in the coming months. For the voluntary repatriation to be successful, continued support for the refugee operation is critically important to stability for remaining refugees to support a longer-term durable solution. WFP Rwanda

was able to avoid ration reduction thanks to a USAID contribution of US\$ 6 million in November.

Somalia

As of 30 September 2020, Somalia hosted 30,268 refugees and asylum-seekers mainly from Ethiopia (19,385) and Yemen (10,153). There was a total of 91,828 returnees and 2,648,000 IDPs in Somalia as at September 2020.

WFP's priority is to meet immediate food security needs and mitigate the impact of the pandemic on families and communities. WFP is prepared to assist up to 85 percent of IDPs, 450,000 people, projected to be affected by the pandemic's health and socioeconomic consequences. WFP has rapidly responded with two-month distributions of cash and in-kind transfers, use of e-vouchers to avoid large crowds; reprogramming of in-country stock to meet mounting relief needs. Contactless solutions are being stepped up such as mobile money and home delivery via the e-shop application available to WFP beneficiaries.

South Sudan

South Sudan remains Africa's largest and world's third largest refugee crisis with 2,182,948 refugees and asylum seekers from the country as of 30 September 2020. The country has 301,033 returnees and 1.6 million IDPs as at September 2020. Alongside the resident population, refugees continue to experience food and nutrition insecurity, with 31 percent of refugee households reporting poor food consumption levels in 2019.

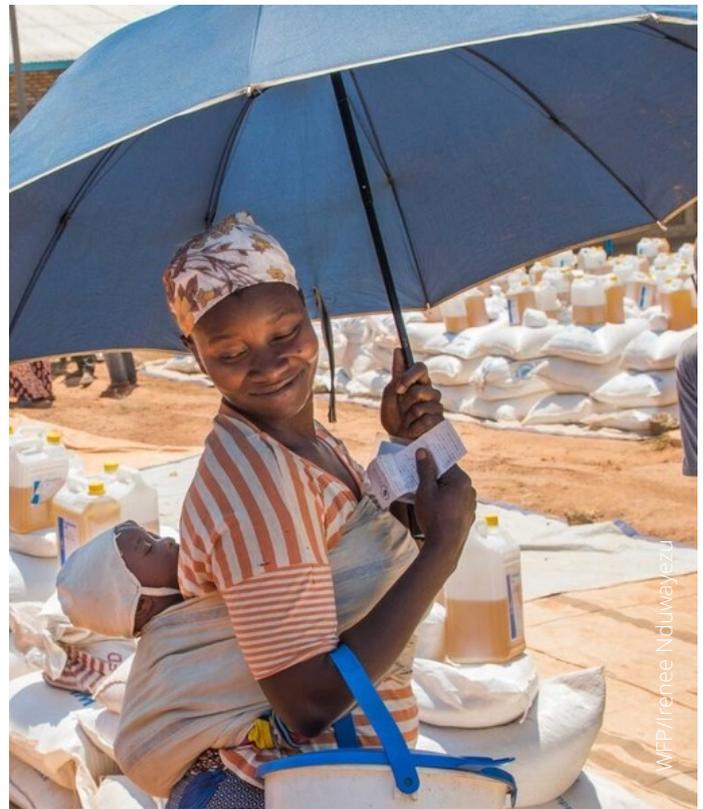
Despite funding constraints, WFP has been able to consistently maintain the food ration at 70 percent. Based on nutrition screening, WFP provides specialized nutritious food for refugee children aged 6–59 months and pregnant and nursing women and girls with moderate acute malnutrition. In 2019, WFP scaled up the use of cash-based transfers in refugee settings by providing US\$ 11 million (a 48 percent increase from 2018) in cash for milling at all camps. WFP also mitigated a shortfall of salt by replacing it with a cash transfer for people to buy it themselves. The schools in

South Sudan are set to be opened soon, and with it the resumption of onsite school feeding after suspension due to COVID-19.

Uganda

Uganda is the country hosting the largest number of refugees in Africa and the third largest in the world. The country hosts a total of 1,431,477 refugees and asylum seekers as of September 2020 with the vast majority (82 percent) being women and children. Considering ongoing conflict and increased food insecurity in South Sudan and DRC, Uganda's refugee population is expected to continue increasing.

Based on WFP's refugee general food assistance (GFA) pipeline and forecast for 2020, a 30 percent ration reduction of cash and food was implemented from April 2020. The ration reduction affected all refugees except new arrivals, who will receive full rations until they settle in about 3 months. CBT accounts for 38 percent of total requirement. WFP requires US\$89.7 million to fully cover the food needs of the refugees for six months (December– May 2021). There is continuous reassessment of the situation and if no new resources



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